



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights



- Brian Sewell, IM Project Manager, has been working with Garfield County commissioners on reviewing bids for the Williams Coulee site. Plans are to award a contract next week.
- IM and PSSB staff met with Alcatel-Lucent representatives to discuss network monitoring capabilities.
- Jack Spillman has been working with the cities of Whitefish and Columbia Falls to see if modifications to the Big Mountain antenna system have corrected coverage issues.
- Aviat Networks has completed engineering for microwave hops from Culbertson to the Government Hill site outside of Miles City.

## New Dates Set for the WBIWG Meeting!

By E. Wing Spooner [espoon@mt.gov](mailto:espoon@mt.gov)

The dates of the 2010 Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWG) meeting, which was postponed earlier this year, have been re-established. This free event will take place in Regina, Saskatchewan beginning the evening of Tues., Nov. 16 and concluding at noon on Thurs., Nov. 18.



WBIWG meetings, which began in 2005, offer an opportunity for representatives from Western border states and provinces to interact with each other about radio interoperability issues. This annual get-together provides a platform for federal, state and provincial coordination of public safety communications and technologies with an emphasis on border areas.

To sign up, please send an e-mail to Kevin Roche, [kevin.roche@gov.sk.ca](mailto:kevin.roche@gov.sk.ca), indicating your interest and contact information. Here is the initial schedule for the event:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010** - Evening Meet & Greet Social (at hotel)

- **Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010** - Main Meeting Session in the new auditorium at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Depot. Before the evening group dinner, participants may want to visit the RCMP Heritage Museum (<http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com>.)

- **Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010** - ½ Day Morning Session (at hotel)

Invitations to speakers who were lined up last spring have been re-issued, and we are hopeful that the following speakers will again be able to present:

- Kelly Glaspey, RCMP, Red River IBET
- Jackson Hamilton, RCMP, Alberta IBET and Bi-Lateral Initiative with Saskatchewan
- Inspector John Leitch, RCMP F-Division, OIC and Informatics Saskatchewan, Co-host and Welcoming Remarks
- Chris Lewis, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Karl Reardon, Saskatchewan Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN)
- Dr. Paula Scalingi, Director, Center for Regional Disaster Resilience, PNWER

Kevin still has room for a few additional speakers, so please contact him if you are interested and available. Each speaker is allotted about 40-45 minutes for the presentation and to answer questions.

We are anticipating a very strong program that will build on the successful history of this annual get together. As soon as you know of your ability to attend, please contact Kevin Roche or E. Wing Spooner [espoon@mt.gov](mailto:espoon@mt.gov). Thanks for your interest and participation.

## Governor's Office of Community Service Focuses on Preparedness

By E. Wing Spooner [espoon@mt.gov](mailto:espoon@mt.gov)

The Governor's Office of Community Service administers the state AmeriCorps national service program, the Montana Citizen Corps, and other community partnerships in an effort to promote service opportunities for Montanans. Citizen Corps is bringing together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience. For example, Citizen



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Corps promotes a variety of preparedness training opportunities, such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course. This program educates folks about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

A peek at the <http://ready.mt.gov> website shows a diverse showcase of resources related to helping neighborhoods prepare for disasters, preparing for fires, winter weather, and even how to best include special needs populations in emergency planning. It's worth a look-see.

### Canada/U.S. Communications Interoperability Workshops

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)



Time is running out to register for the 2010 Canada-U.S. Cross Border Communications Interoperability Workshop taking place in Windsor, Ontario from Sept. 13-15, which is co-hosted by Public Safety Canada (PS) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC). The workshop will bring together a broad base of users and officials from all levels of government from both nations with an interest in cross border communications along the Canada-U.S. border.

This policy-based event is only open to:

- Emergency Response Agencies (law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, emergency managers)
- Other Public Safety Providers (federal, state/provincial, and local/municipal)
- Military and Coast Guard
- Government Agencies and Utilities

Visit <http://www.cacp.ca/index/eventscontent?contentId=940> for complete information.

Also, don't miss these upcoming events:

- Third Annual First Responder Vendor Outreach Forum, September 28 and 29 in Halifax — Visit [http://www.cata.ca/Media\\_and\\_Events/FR\\_VOF/AltCan/default.html](http://www.cata.ca/Media_and_Events/FR_VOF/AltCan/default.html) for detailed information.
- APCO Canada Annual Conference, November 18 to 18, 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia— details at [www.apcocanadaconference.ca](http://www.apcocanadaconference.ca).
- Fourth Canadian Public Safety Interoperability Workshop, December 5 to 8, 2010 in Victoria, British Columbia – registration information is at <http://www.cacp.ca/index/eventscontent?contentId=851>.

### Upcoming Meetings

- **Thurs., Sept. 16**  
Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium  
Helena • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Thurs., Sept. 16**  
I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am – noon  
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Thurs., Sept. 16**  
Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 9:00 am Technical Committee  
10:00 am Consortium Meeting  
Yellowstone County EOC, 2305 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. North
- **Mon., Sept. 27**  
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Sept. 28**  
Tri-County Consortium  
Helena • 10:00 am - noon  
IM Offices, 2717 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Sept. 28**  
State Agency Radio Users Task Force  
Helena • 9:00 am – 10:30 am  
Rm. 109, Old Livestock Building, 1310 Lockey St.
- **Sun.-Thurs., Sept. 26 - 30**  
Annual MACo Conference  
Billings • Crown Plaza, 27 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.  
<http://maco.cog.mt.us/>
- **Mon.-Thurs., Oct. 4-7**  
Tribal Homeland Security Conference  
Polson • KwaTaqNuk Best Western Resort  
49708 US Highway 93 East  
POCs: Robert DesRosier 406-450-0646 and  
Sheri Lanz 406-841-3911
- **Mon., Oct. 4**  
IM Finance Committee (IMFC)  
Helena • 9:00 – noon  
Anderson ZurMuehlen  
828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Mon., Oct. 4**  
IM Governance Committee (IMGC)  
Helena • 1:00 – 5:00 pm  
Anderson ZurMuehlen  
828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Tues., Oct. 5**  
IM Project Directors Meeting (IMPD)  
Helena • 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 152 (*Please note the location*)